

# GENERALS SPLIT; MERCIER SAID TO BE WEAKENING

Dreyfus Confounds His Traducers by Showing That His Knowledge of Artillery Secrets Was Slight, but Legitimate.

A Witness in His Favor Is Indiscreet Enough to Mention the Name of an Austrian Attache, and Is at Once Reproved.

By H. J. W. Dam.

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**RENNES, Aug. 30.**—"Mon Colonel," said Dreyfus this morning, "it is very difficult for me to discuss the bordereau, because so far as any charge against me is concerned, we are absolutely in the domain of hypothesis. I would first like to know what there is in these notes (notes of General Deloye), the nature of these notes and their value."

He proceeded to make quite a long speech upon quite an important matter—the 120 gun and the hydropneumatic brake mentioned in the bordereau. But what struck everybody with surprise was the great change in him which has taken place since the trial began. Two weeks ago he would speak in a hoarse, irritated, contemptuous voice, in disjointed sentences and in more or less explosive outbursts. It is easy to see now that at that time his strength was small, his nerves strained to the last degree and his temper unable to withstand constant assault and insults.

## He Set His Judges Against Him.

Bad temper, which always has a physical cause, is the most contagious of all diseases, and there is no denying that during the opening scenes of the trial Dreyfus set the Judges very much against him by his manner. When he was angry and contemptuous they were angry and contemptuous, and it was perfectly clear at one time from the same bored expression on all the seven faces that they positively disliked the ordeal of listening to him.

To-day, however, all was changed. He was calm, good humored, dignified, perfectly at his ease. His voice was modulated, and refined, instead of the former hoarse, harsh monotone, and his manners and personality had the drawing room charm. His face was fresh and full of color, and he was in excellent spirits.

When he was brought in ahead of time after recess, and little Sergeant Jouten, the usher, aghast at such a violation of official etiquette, ran over to send him and his guard out again, Jouten stopped suddenly and gave the prisoner a full captain's salute. Dreyfus smiled at Jouten, returned the salute and went out as jauntily as a dashing young officer on parade. In other words, the prisoner's hopes are high, and it is everybody else's hope that they may not be dashed to earth.

## A Day of Artillery Talk.

To-day's session was mainly devoted to artillery matters and the possibility or probability that Dreyfus was in a position to furnish the technical secrets mentioned in the bordereau. This is, of course, the only vital question now remaining. The witness for the prosecution was General Deloye, director of artillery for the French army. Deloye is a bronzed, weather-beaten old soldier, full of vigor, who has the distinction of wearing the longest mustache yet seen in a gathering where this extraordinary human decoration may be examined in all its known shapes and varieties. Deloye's mustache, like twin iron-gray waterfalls from a dividing rock, fell to the middle of his chest, giving him the look of an old walrus which had risen up suddenly through the platform to stare at the court in the way which walruses affect.

## An Artilleryman Guilty.

His evidence was direct and important. He said that at the request of De Freycinet he had investigated the authorship of the bordereau thoroughly from the standpoint of the artillery information therein. It was quite impossible that it had been written or suggested by any but an artillery officer. There was no doubt that Dreyfus was in a position to obtain this information, but whether any other artillery officer was in the same position was a question for the court to determine. The matter of the hydropneumatic brake on the 120 gun was even now under consideration by the War Departments of several nations. In France the matter had been kept as secret as possible. The only possible place where the information mentioned in the bordereau could have been obtained was at the Ministry of War.

President Jouaust wanted to know how other governments had been able to obtain information concerning the brake.

"Foreign governments," said General Deloye, "equip their agents in Paris with all the information they are able to gather, in order that the agents may act intelligently in getting more. In 1894 this brake was by far the best bit of information that other governments were most anxious to obtain. The shrapnel shell adopted by Germany certainly had a strong family resemblance to ours."

## Only Hypothesis Against Him.

Then came Dreyfus's little speech in answer to the question by Jouaust if he had anything to say. In addition to the words above quoted, he said:

"I repeat that in this matter, as far as it constitutes any charge against me, we are entirely in the domain of hypothesis; that concerning the 120 gun I can tell you only what I knew as long ago as 1889 and 1890. I then learned during my sojourn at Bourges the principle of the hydropneumatic brake. General Mercier has said in his deposition that he was Inspector General at Bourges. He ought to remember that at that time a conference was held, to which all artillery officers present were invited—officers of the School of Pyrotechnics, officers of the Government, officers from all services at Bourges and from the garrison of Bourges. At this conference the hydropneumatic brake was discussed. The theory of it was given, as it had been given in all the courses, the courses at school, the practice course at Saint Cyr—a theory that everybody knew."

## Dreyfus an Excellent Lawyer.

This seemed to make the matter clear enough. Dreyfus is an excellent lawyer for himself. The Court, however, wished to go thoroughly into the matter as between Dreyfus and Deloye, and Commandant Carriere read a letter from the Minister of War saying all the evidence on these artillery details must be taken in absolutely secret session. A secret session was therefore ordered for 6:30 to-morrow, and the faces of the journalists wore a truly beatific look at the news that for once during the trial they could lie in bed till the hour customary among the sane human beings except of the officers of a court-martial in France.



General Mercier, Sketched in Court.

The sketch was made by Louis Malteste, the special artist of Le Monde Illustré, immediately after General Mercier had made his deposition.

## INDISCREET PICOT MENTIONED A NAME

It Was That of Schneider, and He Was Reproved on the Spot.

**Rennes, Aug. 30.**—After recess M. Georges Picot, a member of the Institute, was called for the defense, Maître Demange explaining that he was called because he had had an interview last May with a foreign military attaché, in which mention was made of the document inserted in the dossier by General Mercier.

Colonel Jouaust told the witness to be very cautious in his statements. After promising to exercise care, M. Picot said he had an interview with the Austro-Hungarian military attaché, Colonel Schneider, which brought out a protest from Colonel Jouaust and Major Carrière.

M. Picot eliminated the name, and said he had an interview with a "certain military attaché" and the conversation turned upon the Dreyfus case. The attaché expressed surprise at the "incorrect attitude of French officers" in doubting the word of foreign officers.

"My impression," added the witness, "was that he was anxious to assert firmly and unequivocally the absolute innocence of Dreyfus. Regarding the bordereau, the attaché said only three documents were referred to, the others being padding, meant to swell the dossier."

The attaché, M. Picot said, declared that he considered Esterhazy a swindler, saying he had relations with Colonel Schwartzkoppen, who dismissed him because he only brought information devoid of interest.

It was then, continued M. Picot, that Esterhazy tried to enter the War Office and almost succeeded, and it was then that he wrote to Colonel Schwartzkoppen the letter since known as the bordereau, in reply to which Schwartzkoppen wrote the famous letter to the Minister of War. But, on reflection, he crumpled it up and threw it into the fire.

General Roget protested strongly against M. Picot's evidence regarding the military attaché's surprise that the French officers did not believe their foreign colleagues.

"What does the witness think," continued General Roget, "of the foreign officer who, having caused the publication in the Figaro of an emphatic denial of a statement of General Mercier, was afterwards obliged to acknowledge the authorship of a document the paternity of which he at first denied?"

M. Picot replied that he had merely repeated statements made to him and had abstained from comments. He had, therefore, nothing to reply to General Roget. President Jouaust asked General Roget if he did not think the Foreign Office's mistake was excusable, since the word "report" had been applied to a document not possessing the character of a report.

"It is not for me to accuse or excuse," replied the General. "I confine myself to pointing out to the court that the conversation which took place between Dreyfus and the foreign officer was already known. For my part, I intervened only because French officers have been arraigned, and when accused French officers have the right to reply."

## The Wind Tempered to the Storm.

**Paris, Aug. 30.**—A fall of rain this afternoon permitted M. Guérin, leader of the besieged anti-Semites, to secure a supply of water.

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## MERCIER CONFIRMS A DREYFUS EXPERT

He Says Esterhazy's Writing Changed After 1894.

**Rennes, Aug. 30.**—At the Dreyfus court-martial to-day M. Paul Meyer, member of the Institute and director of the School of Ancient MSS., described the investigation which convinced him that the bordereau was actually written by Esterhazy.

"I convinced myself," said M. Meyer, "by a magnifying glass, that the bordereau was written in a free hand and without hesitation, whereas it is precisely hesitation in the formation of the strokes which reveals the use of tracing. I can affirm that it is the writing and in the very hand of Esterhazy. That is perfectly clear to me."

M. Meyer also gave a demonstration of the fallacy of the Bertillon system. Professor Auguste Molinier, of the School of Ancient MSS., gave similar evidence. He said that each fresh examination of the bordereau only served to convince him that it was the work of Esterhazy.

The witness demonstrated how the conclusions of the experts who attributed the bordereau to Dreyfus were actually defective. He said that the handwriting of the bordereau was not the handwriting of Dreyfus, but the handwriting of Esterhazy, pointing out the striking resemblance of the alleged doctored handwriting with the writing of Esterhazy, and the dissimilarity between the writing of the bordereau and that of the prisoner.

General Mercier called attention to the fact that in his testimony before the Court of Cassation Professor Molinier said that change was apparent in Esterhazy's handwriting after 1894, and asked that the professor's former evidence be read.

M. Labori asked if General Mercier intervened with the object of verifying Professor Molinier's evidence, adding that it seemed to him General Mercier intervened less in the character of a witness than of a representative of the Government.

M. Labori asked if the witness had explained the bearing of his remark.

Mercier replied that on this special point he desired to confirm the evidence of Professor Molinier, which, he said, corroborated M. Bertillon's statement that Esterhazy, the man-of-straw, changed his handwriting in order to imitate Dreyfus's.

"Having emphasized the point in regard to the change in Esterhazy's handwriting in his deposition before the Court, I am satisfied," added the General.

Professor Glry, also of the School of Ancient MSS., said the bordereau had only one superficial likeness to Dreyfus's handwriting, and asserted that it was certainly the work of Esterhazy. It was not written with the aid of a typewriter.

M. Labori asked if the witness had noticed a change in Esterhazy's calligraphy, and Professor Glry said he did not think there had been any marked change.

M. Labori asked if General Mercier had meant to intimate that Esterhazy's handwriting had become more or less like that of Dreyfus since 1894. The General replied that he had not expressed an opinion, but he reiterated that M. Bertillon had shown that Esterhazy's handwriting had become more like that of Dreyfus's.

## DREYFUS LEARNED FROM MERCIER

All He Knew of the Pneumatic Brake the General Taught Him.

**Rennes, Aug. 30.**—General Deloye, Director of Artillery at the War Office, repeated the explanations he gave before the Court of Cassation as to the peculiarities of the artillery, particularly the brake of the "120 short" guns. He said he considered that in 1894 it would have been impossible for any officer serving with his regiment to have communicated anything in regard to the brake of this gun.

He added that although the gun was in use at Rennes, the officers forming the court-martial, among whom was an officer commanding a "120 short" gun, had only the vaguest ideas about it, while in 1894 the details of the "pneumatic brake" could have been known to very few.

The Court closely questioned General Deloye, and one of the Judges asked him if it was known that the German shell "01" presented analogies to the Roblin shell.

"In 1896," replied the General. "It was, the information in regard to the 'pneumatic brake,' contained in the provisional instructions for the '120 short' gun, which was communicated."

"Yes," the General said it was possible for an officer of the Headquarters Staff to procure the firing Manual if he addressed a plausible pretext. The brake was manufactured at the foundry at Bourges, and the Roblin shell at the gunnery school.

When Dreyfus was asked if he had anything to say he replied: "I do not intend to discuss the terms of the bordereau, nor advance theories about it. It must be known what is in the notes and what is their nature and their value before theories can be suggested."

"Mention has been made of the '120 short' gun. I state briefly for the second time all that I knew in 1889-1890 at Bourges of this gun. I knew the principle of the 'pneumatic brake' and the final lecture given on the subject of the pneumatic brake, of which he made the customary rough sketch. This is to be found in the St. Cyr lectures. All my knowledge of the 'pneumatic brake' was derived from the lectures."

"As regards the brake itself, I have seen it twice—once in the court yard of the gunnery school at Bourges and once in the school of war. I have seen it in action. I have never seen the '120 short' gun fired, but I have never been present at the firing trials."

"Mention has also been made of the shrapnel shell of 1891. The knowledge of the shrapnel on this point is much more extensive than mine, and everything he has said is quite correct. In 1894 I studied the shell and, in a necessarily incomplete study, reached the conclusion that the shell of the 1891 pattern was a shell in which the bullets were kept in place by a smoke-dense substance intended to produce dense clouds of smoke on bursting. In order to facilitate range finding. These are the conclusions I reached in 1891, and I promulgated them in a report made at the time."

Jaurès Says General Mercier Is Preparing a Retire Knowing That the Acquittal of Dreyfus Is Now a Certainty.

The Socialist Deputy Says the Generals Are Squabbling, and That Their Leaders May Help in the Acquittal.

By H. J. W. Dam.

(Copyright, 1899, by the New York Journal and Advertiser.)

**RENNES, Aug. 30.**—M. Jaurès, the Socialist leader and deputy, gave me some interesting points to-night, representing as they do the views of the situation among the friends of Dreyfus. He said:

"The prosecution has crumbled entirely to pieces. The generals themselves feel it and are at their wits' end to find some new manoeuvre by which to convict Dreyfus. The attitude of Mercier for the last two days has been most significant. If yesterday he paid a compliment to the correctness and honorable conduct of Mathieu Dreyfus, thereby putting an end to the talk of a syndicate, to-day he asked for the reading of the deposition of Grenier, supporting the view that Esterhazy wrote the bordereau. If it were not incredible I should think Mercier had changed front entirely and concluded to make the *amende honorable*.

"We prefer at present to take the safe side and regard this as concealing a new move, viz.: an attempt to make the judges believe Dreyfus, Esterhazy and Weill were acting together as traitors. This is absurd and if tried will fail.

"I think you may safely take it that Mercier, mainly through the influence of Boisdeffre and Billot, is preparing to abandon the prosecution, though Roget, Lauth, Cuignet, Gribelin and the other officers compromised are as bitter as ever and wish to fight to the end. Boisdeffre and Billot feel Dreyfus will be acquitted and are trying to arrange a graceful retreat.

"The only card the prosecution have left is Mme. Bastian, formerly a servant at the German Embassy, who furnished documents to the secret service agent while she was in Schwarzkoppen's service. She was brought here privately eight days ago, but I understand her evidence has not equalled the promises made, that it has far from satisfied Boisdeffre and Billot and that this has caused a split among the generals.

"How Mercier will take his prosecution I can't say. If he should now do the proper thing and assist in acquitting Dreyfus the Government would, I think, be disposed, in order to smooth matters, to let him down easily. Still these are strange times and one never can tell what to-morrow will bring."

## REED ARRIVES TO BEGIN LAW PRACTICE

In October Ex-Speaker Will Be Joined Here by His Family.

Ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed formally becomes the head of the law firm of Thacher & Barnum to-morrow. He arrived in town yesterday, and met his prospective partners at their offices at No. 10 Wall street.

He told them they might expect him to be ready for business September 1, and they were very glad to hear it. He is a bachelor quarters at the Hotel Manhattan. In October, however, he will be joined by Mrs. and Miss Kitty Reed. Then a house uptown will probably be taken.

Mr. Reed was as uncommunicative as ever yesterday about his personal plans. He declined to say whether he proposed to enter actively into the politics of this State. But the fact that he has been asked to join the Union League Republican Club and other political organizations and that he has made up his mind to have his name posted has caused politicians to suspect he may soon become quite as distinguished a figure in New York as he has been in Washington.

Rumors were revived yesterday that Senator Platt might have Mr. Reed put upon the delegation from New York State to the next Republican National Convention. Objection has been raised, however, that he will not have been a citizen long enough to legally warrant such a procedure. Mr. Reed must have been a year in the State before he possesses the right to vote or act as a delegate to a New York or national political convention.

But the ex-Speaker will be eligible in 1904 and his close friends have already dreamed of having his name presented for the Presidential nomination then. Reed and Platt are very good friends. If Roosevelt and Platt have another quarrel within the next four years and the Tlogun controls the delegation of 1904, anti-Roosevelt people say, look out for Reed.

## FOUR HURLED TO DEATH.

Englishman and His Guides Fall Down Dent Blanche Mountain.

**Zermatt, Switzerland, Aug. 30.**—A serious mountain-climbing accident has just been reported.

While two Englishmen, Hill and Jones, were ascending the Dent Blanche, their rope broke, and Jones and three guides were precipitated down the mountain.

Hill's escape is a wonder. He was roped to his companions, but cut loose from them.

## LI HUNG CHANG URGED TO SETTLE CHINA'S TROUBLES.

Joseph Walton, M. P., Suggests Conciliating Other Powers to Avoid Partition of Empire.

**Pekin, Aug. 30.**—Mr. Joseph Walton, Liberal member of Parliament for the Barnsley division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, has had audience with Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching. He urged them to settle promptly the differences of China with other nations and to employ English, American and Japanese officers in the Imperial Army.

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